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# Field Notes - December 28, 1967

Maine Division of Information and Education

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

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# NEWS SERVICE

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DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & GAME • STATE HOUSE • AUGUSTA, MAINE

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F I E L D   N O T E S  
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DECEMBER 28, 1967

FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR ALANSON NOBLE, DIV. A, CASCO, DEC. 20:

WARDEN CHARLES COCHRAN, LIMERICK: BEAVER CRUISING SEEMS TO POINT TO A GOOD POPULATION ESPECIALLY IN PARSONSFIELD. DEER SIGN VERY GOOD ALL OVER THE DISTRICT. FISHER SIGN VERY SCARCE ALTHOUGH ONE OF MY TRAPPERS REPORTS HAVING PICKED UP SEVERAL ESPECIALLY ALONG THE STATE LINE.

WARDEN RUSS DYER, POLAND SPRINGS: NOT MUCH ACTIVITY AT THIS TIME. DOGS DO NOT SEEM TO BE RUNNING AS MUCH AS THEY HAVE IN PAST YEARS. I BELIEVE THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE ICE AND CRUST CONDITIONS. VERY LITTLE ICE FISHING AT THIS TIME.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR ARTHUR ROGERS, DIV. B, WATERVILLE, DEC. 20:

WARDEN DEAN JORDAN, WISCASSET: DUCK HUNTERS IN THIS AREA GOT OFF TO A SLOW START FOR THE OPENING OF THE SECOND SEASON. THEY HAD HARD LUCK WEATHER-WISE AND DUCK-WISE. THE 67 HUNTERS CHECKED AVERAGED LESS THAN ONE DUCK. ONE SHOOTER WAS HURRYING TO A STORE FOR MORE AMMO. HE HAD FIRED OVER A BOX OF 25 SHELLS AND HAD ONE DUCK. IN MY OPINION, THE AVERAGE GUNNER COULD NEVER HURT THE BLACK DUCKS. SOME HUNTERS CONTINUOUSLY RUN BIG MOTORS ON ALUMINUM BOATS. THE BIRDS QUICKLY BECOME VERY WILD. SO THE HUNTERS PROVE OUT TO BE REAL CONSERVATIONISTS AFTER ALL. NEARLY ALL DUCK HUNTING AT MERRYMEETING BAY WAS LOST DURING THE SECOND SEASON DUE TO ICE. THE MAIN CHANNEL FROM BATH TO RICHMOND IS OPEN EXCEPT FOR LARGE AMOUNTS OF DRIFT ICE. ALL OTHER BAYS AND FLATS ARE FROZEN. THERE IS A LARGE CONCENTRATION OF GOLDEN EYES AND MERGANSERS IN THE CHANNEL.

WARDEN DONIS WHEATON, WEST MINOT: TWO APPLE ORCHARDISTS IN THIS DISTRICT HAVE STARTED SHOOTING DEER IN THEIR ORCHARDS. ONE HAS KILLED NINE DEER SINCE THE END OF HUNTING SEASON AND THE OTHER HAS KILLED FOUR.

WARDEN GEORGE NASH, JEFFERSON: GETTING A LOT OF DOG/DEER COMPLAINTS.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR WALTER BISSET, DIV. C, ELLSWORTH, DEC. 20:

SOME HUNTING OF DEER CONTINUES, BOTH DAY AND NIGHT, IN THIS AREA AND WILL LIKELY CONTINUE UNTIL WE GET SNOW. THE GROUND IS BARE HERE NOW ALTHOUGH THE NORTHERN PART OF MY DISTRICT HAD FOUR INCHES OR SO BEFORE THE RECENT HEAVY RAINS. I AM RECEIVING SOME DOG COMPLAINTS, AND ONE

MORE

FIELD NOTES/ADD 1

WOUNDED FAWN DOE WHICH WOULD LIKELY HAVE SURVIVED WAS KILLED BY DOGS IN SULLIVAN LAST WEEK. WOODSMEN AND HUNTERS REPORT SEEING A LOT OF GROUSE SINCE THE SEASON FOR THEM CLOSED, AND I AM SEEING MORE THAN USUAL IN THE WOODS AND WHILE CHECKING CAMPS. HARES ARE VERY SCARCE- CERTAINLY FEWER THAN FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR JOHN SHAW, DIV. E, WILTON, DEC. 20:

WARDEN MARTIN SAVAGE, OQUOSSOC: CRUSTY SNOW HAS REDUCED THE HUNTING IN THE DISTRICT THIS WEEK. RECENT RAINS FLUSHED ICE FROM MOST BROOKS IN MY AREA. A LOT OF BUDDING PARTRIDGE ARE SHOWING UP NOW.

WARDEN EBEN PERRY, RANGELEY: ALL LAKES AND PONDS HAVE FAIRLY GOOD ICE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RANGELEY LAKE. OVERNIGHT TEMPERATURES OF NEAR ZERO HAVE FAILED TO SEAL THE LAKE OVER DUE TO GALE WINDS DAY AND NIGHT.

WARDEN JOHN SWASEY, ANDOVER: SEEMS LIKE AUTOMOBILES JUST DON'T GO IN SNOWMOBILE TRACKS. TWO CARS TRIED TO COME OVER EAST B HILL FROM UPTON TO ANDOVER. THIS ROAD IS NOT PLOWED BUT IS SOMETIMES TRAVELED BY SNOW SLEDS. AT A POINT ABOUT SEVEN MILES FROM ANDOVER, THEY BOTH BECAME STUCK. AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, A MAN ON A SNOW SLED CAME ALONG AND BROUGHT THE DRIVER OF ONE OF THE CARS OUT TO MY RESIDENCE FOR HELP.

I WENT BACK WITH A SNOWMOBILE AND SLED, TAKING HEAVY BOOTS, JACKETS, AND MITTENS. FOUND MEN AND WOMEN ALL DRESSED IN LOW SHOES AND LIGHT JACKETS. ONE WOMAN IN HER FIFTIES HAD NEVER BEEN ON A SNOW SLED BEFORE BUT WAS HAPPY TO MAKE THE SEVEN MILE TRIP TO ANDOVER. I MADE TWO TIPS BRINGING THE PEOPLE OUT, THEN ARRANGED FOR A SNOW PLOW TO GO BACK AND GET THE CARS.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR DAVID PRIEST, DIV. G, LINCOLN CENTER, DEC. 22:

WE ARE STILL HAVING OCCASIONAL NIGHT HUNTING COMPLAINTS. WARDENS WIGHT AND HASSON APPREHENDED ONE MONDAY NIGHT. THIS FELLOW WAS ALREADY ON APPEAL FROM A DISTRICT COURT SENTENCE FOR SECOND OFFENSE OF NIGHT HUNTING.

SOME OF THE RESIDENTS IN ONE SECTION OF OUR DIVISION HAVE THREATENED TO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS UNLESS THESE NIGHT ROAMING INDIVIDUALS STOP TRESPASSING UPON THEIR PROPERTY. IT HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED THAT SOME LANDOWNERS HAVE BEEN THREATENED AS TO WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THEM AND THEIR PROPERTY IF THEY INFORMED THE WARDENS THAT NIGHT HUNTING WAS TAKING PLACE IN THEIR AREA. THE WEATHER CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN VERY POOR SO FAR THIS WINTER FOR THOSE HUNTERS WHO PURSUE RABBITS AND BOBCATS WITH DOGS. THE SHARP CRUST WHICH WE HAVE AT PRESENT WOULD CUT A DOG'S FEET UP BADLY IN JUST A FEW MINUTES.

WARDENS, FISHERMEN, AND PROSPECTING BEAVER TRAPPERS ALL REPORT THE ICE TO BE VERY TREACHEROUS AT THE PRESENT TIME. IN MANY PLACES THERE ARE SEVERAL LAYERS OF SHELL ICE WHICH BREAK UNDER THE SLIGHTEST WEIGHT.

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MORE

FIELD NOTES/Add 2

FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR VIRGIL GRANT, DIV. H, HOULTON, DEC. 20:

WARDEN RUSSELL COOK, HOULTON: ICE FISHING HAS STARTED UP, MAINLY FOR SMELTS. BEAVER TRAPPERS OUT IN FULL FORCE.

WARDEN HAROLD SINCLAIR, FORT FAIRFIELD: THERE APPEARS TO BE A LITTLE MORE INTEREST IN BEAVER TRAPPING THIS WINTER, WITH A FEW MORE TRAPPERS WORKING THIS AREA, ALTHOUGH I DON'T BELIEVE THE TAKE OF BEAVER IS ANY GREATER SO FAR THAN IN PREVIOUS SEASONS. HAVE OBSERVED MORE BUDDING PARTRIDGES ALONG THE ROADSIDES FEEDING IN BIRCHES AND POPLARS THAN IN PREVIOUS WINTERS.

WARDEN JOHN ROBERTSON, PORTAGE: SNOW COVER IN THIS AREA SINCE THE RAIN OF DEC. 12 VARIES FROM 7 TO 10 INCHES, WITH ONE INCH BEING AN ICE GLAZED CRUST THAT WON'T HOLD UP A MAN. TRAVELING ON FOOT FOR ANY DISTANCE IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE. WHEN THE CRUST GIVES UNDER YOUR WEIGHT, LARGE IRREGULAR PIECES OF CRUST BREAK LOOSE AND THEN TIP CAUSING ONE TO SLIP AND FALL. SNOWSHOES ARE ALSO USELESS UNLESS THEY HAVE SOME SORT OF ICE PICKS ON THEM. THE ICY CRUST IS CARRYING THE DEER AS LONG AS THEY CAN PICK THEIR WAY CAREFULLY AND DON'T HAVE TO RUN.

WARDEN INSPECTOR LEONARD RITCHIE, PRESQUE ISLE: SMELT FISHERMEN ARE NOT DOING VERY WELL AT SQUA-PAN. ON DEC. 14 A TRUCK BELONGING TO ED CLAYTON OF CARIBOU WENT THROUGH THE ICE IN ABOUT 10 FEET OF WATER WHILE TRYING TO PUT OUT A FISH HOUSE. THERE WAS ABOUT FOUR INCHES OF ICE WHERE IT WENT THROUGH. EVERYONE GOT OUT O.K.

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